

HORIZONS



Jan 2004

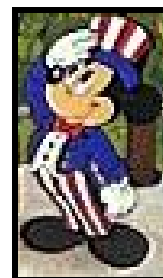
Election Results - Nov 2003

Officers to start duties effective Jan 1 2004! The elections were held at the November club meeting and the new officers are:

Pres.....Joe Wessling joe@sunriders.com
Vice Pres....Joe McCormick joem@sunriders.com
Sec.....Kathy Davis kathy@sunriders.com
Treasurer.....LoAn Nguyen topless@sunriders.com

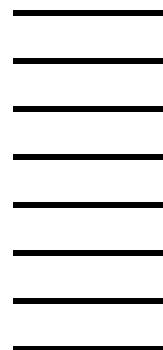
Directors:

Mike Beneshek (pdf@sunriders.com)
Owen Johns (owen@sunriders.com)
Bob Bartlett (bob@sunriders.com)



Committees:

AC Direc.Loren Williams Loren@InvisibleSun.org
Membership.....George Bickner george@sunriders.com
Fellowship.....JoAnn Forte joann@sunriders.com
Marketing.....Fritz Kloepful
Historian.....
Web Master.....Kevin Morrison kevin@sunriders.com
Calendar/Events..Don Reese don@sunriders.com
Merchandise.....Ilona Wessling ilona@sunriders.com



PROPOSED MEETING DAY CHANGE TO WEDNESDAY IS EFFECTIVE WITH JANUARY MEETING!

At the October Monthly meeting, we took a survey to find out which day of the week might mean more or new faces at the monthly meetings. The survey showed that Wednesday is the day of choice (by a landslide!).

Bob Bartlett will take over meeting schedule - getting restaurant lined up. Suggestions from the club can be forwarded to him.

Sun Riders Club Merchandise For Sale

contact Ilona Wessling
@ (H) 727.376.2484 (W)
727.937.8247
New merchandise arriving!



New!
Laser cut
wood
badges...very
dressy.
\$6



\$25

polo shirts
assorted colors, racing
stripe collars



\$25

polo shirts
assorted colors, plain col-
lars

**New chambray shirts!
Customized! \$30!**



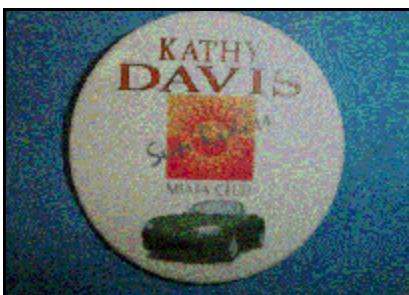
\$15

magnets
approx. size 8 inches



\$3

buttons
made with your name and
car color/style



**COURTESY MAZDA
OF
TAMPA**



**3800 West
Hillsboro Ave
TAMPA**



Lindell Mazda

3300 Tyrone Boulevard
St. Petersburg, Florida
(727) 344-3344

sales@lindellmazda.net



Hi! My name is
Calvin. Can
you guess who
I belong to?

Last month's lucky
littly guy belongs to
Kathy Davis...his
name is Tai and he is
a 7 pound Yorkie.



What ARE they doing???????

Card and sandwich night at the Bickners held
some 'spec'tacular surprises!

DAVIS ISLAND JAZZ IN THE GARDENS

by Joe McCormick



Sunday, November 9: All day long, rain threatened, clouds rolled, temperatures dropped and dropped. But eighteen intrepid SunRiders showed up at the Davis Islands Garden Club's 2nd Annual Island Rhythms Concert in Tampa. At 5:30, Belinda Womack and the Katz took the stage and warmed the night with smooth, warm "Jazz in the Garden".

The full moon that was hoped for stayed hidden behind clouds. The cool night meant most Miata tops were up on the way home. Tiki torches blew out and blew over, but the music was great. The Miata Corral wasn't really in the Seddon Channel - just really, really close. The eighteen SunRiders present huddled in our blankets and enjoyed the night, the music and the friendship.

At last year's concert, Jonathan Skinner and Joe McCormick were big winners (read "spenders") at the Silent Auction. This year, SunRiders were outbid on all items, but may have won a few raffle items.

The Garden Club sends special thanks to Ilona Wessling for her contribution of a "Gift Basket for A Lady's Bath" from her business, Holiday Accessories & Gifts (located inside Holiday Vacuum) in Holiday Florida.

Judy Davis McCormick says, "Thanks, SunRiders. We hope you had fun. Come back next year!"

INDIAN ROCKS PARADE

by J Fortay

The I.R.B. holiday street parade went off like clockwork at 1:00 Sunday, and it was a pretty good event that brought a lot of Christmas spirit to local folks. Our club turnout was not really great, but many thanks to those who attended. This is a busy time of year, with so many functions happening at the same time that it's hard to be everywhere. We can add another ribbon to our club archives.

SAFETY HARBOR PARADE

by K Davis

This holiday parade has been a regular for the last 4 years. It is a small route down Main Street Safety Harbor but it draws a HUGE crowd and media coverage each year. The folks of the town (and neighboring areas) line the street to watch the many floats, cars, trucks and bands march the route and toss goodies. The enthusiasm in the air is great and one always leaves the parade with a sense of holiday excitement.



SUN RIDERS HISTORY NEEDED....

In an effort to finish up the autocross sponsorship proposal I want to put together a list of things the Sunriders have done to "give back to the community".

This would include charities we have donated to, and what year, volunteer work we have done (ex: beach clean-up) and anything the club has participated in that enhances our community here in Tampa Bay.

I know over the years we have been involved in a lot of good things, but I'm not sure if anyone has ever compiled a list. If so, please forward it to me, otherwise search your memory and send me an e-mail with whatever you can remember.

Thanks for your help!

Fritz Kloepfel - Mandalay Solutions

Web Sites, Photography, Print Ads and Database Solutions www.mandalaysolutions.com

(727)517-3193 fritz@mandalaysolutions.com

Cars and Crafts by K Davis

For those of you that missed it, Doro planned a fun evening at a local pottery studio. 7 of us came out to glaze some greenware and sit for some car and social conversation. About 8ish we took an icecream break with scoops from a local shop serving Working Cow Ice Cream. It was yummy. We all got to see a rather unique and artistic side to a couple of miataphiles. Who knew Doro, Nancy B and Jonathan were so artistic??? Wow! Their pottery is sure to turn out awesome.

Thanks Doro! You did a great job!

Nov 15 Auto Cross by Loren Williams

Wow! What a great day. Perfect weather. Lots of drivers. Lots of help getting everything done. No problems whatsoever. If you missed it, we had 42 drivers. 11 (yes, ELEVEN) of them were first-timers. Almost makes me wish we had a December event on the schedule. Oh well, January 10th is just around the corner.

Brian Hollands and Dan Rasp did a great job chairing this event. Everything went like clockwork, and *I* didn't have to do much of anything. (oops, I'm not supposed to let that secret out, am I?) Thanks to everyone who came out early to help set up, volunteered where needed to do what needed to be done throughout the day, and who stayed late to help pack up... and even later to help set up the law enforcement course after we found out we had to do that a few minutes after most people had left!

Extra special thanks to Don Reese for single-handedly doing Registration for all of our 42 drivers this morning... and then heading off to seek sponsorship from businesses in the Bradenton area. Don didn't even stick around to drive in the event!

Ditto to Chad Sutton for bringing out "Big Ugly" to tow our equipment trailer to and from the event.

Some of that for LoAn and her crew, who brought out lunch for us, too.

Pictures. If anyone has pictures, I've been asked by our webmaster to remind you that we have a place on the website to upload those and if you have any suggestions on how to improve the website, use the comments form on the website. And lastly... Results are up on the website: <http://www.sunridersautocross.com> Read 'em and weep... I did! (one damned cone...)!



Calendar of Events

January 2004

Saturday, 1/3/2004 - SunRiders - Dade City Cruise In
4PM, meet at McDonalds at SR54 and US41. Leave for Dade City at 4:30PM.
40 minute drive in country and car show with dinner.
Contact Joe Wesling for details.
Hosted by SunRiders Miata Club of Tampa, FL
For more information: visit <http://www.sunriders.com> or
contact Don Reese at <mailto:Don@SunRiders.com> (941) 739-0104

Sunday, 1/18/2004 - SunRiders

Sun Riders Board Meeting 7:00PM - 8:00PM Board Meeting

MEETING PLACE - TO BE ANNOUNCED

Hosted by SunRiders Miata Club of Tampa, FL

**For more information: visit <http://www.sunriders.com> or
contact Don Reese at <mailto:Don@SunRiders.com> (941) 739-0104**

Wednesday, 1/21/2004 - SunRiders - Lindell Mazda - St. Petersburg

Monthly Club Meeting Hosted by Lindell Mazda. Come out and see the 2004 models. Lindell will provide food and door prizes! Website: <http://www.lindellmazda.net/aboutus.aspx>
Lindell Mazda 3300 Tyrone Boulevard St. Petersburg, Florida
(727) 344-3344

Hosted by SunRiders Miata Club of Tampa, FL
For more information: visit <http://www.sunriders.com> or
contact Don Reese at <mailto:Don@SunRiders.com> (941) 739-0104

February 2004

Saturday, 2/7/2004 - SunRiders - Dade City Cruise In
4PM, meet at McDonalds at SR54 and US41. Leave for Dade City at 4:30PM.
40 minute drive in country and car show with dinner.
Contact Joe Wesling for details.
Hosted by SunRiders Miata Club of Tampa, FL
For more information: visit <http://www.sunriders.com> or
contact Don Reese at <mailto:Don@SunRiders.com> (941) 739-0104

Saturday, 2/21/2004 - SunRiders - Royal Lipizzan Stallions

Drive south for the winter training excercizes of the Royal Lipizzan Stallions. Leave St Pete 7-8 am,
show starts at 10. More details to follow. For more information: visit <http://www.sunriders.com>

March 2004

Saturday, 3/6/2004 - SunRiders - Dade City Cruise In
4PM, meet at McDonalds at SR54 and US41. Leave for Dade City at 4:30PM.
40 minute drive in country and car show with dinner.
Contact Joe Wesling for details.
Hosted by SunRiders Miata Club of Tampa, FL
For more information: visit <http://www.sunriders.com> or
contact Don Reese at <mailto:Don@SunRiders.com> (941) 739-0104

April 2004

Saturday, 4/3/2004 -SunRiders - Dade City Cruise In
4PM, meet at McDonalds at SR54 and US41. Leave for Dade City at 4:30PM.
40 minute drive in country and car show with dinner.
Contact Joe Wesling for details.
Hosted by SunRiders Miata Club of Tampa, FL
For more information: visit <http://www.sunriders.com> or
contact Don Reese at <mailto:Don@SunRiders.com> (941) 739-0104

May 2004

Thursday, 5/6/2004 - Sunday, 5/9/2004

RidgeRunner Miata Club
The Biltmore Estate
Miatas At The Biltmore

Estate This is an invitation from the Ridgerunner Miata Club of Western North Carolina to all the Miata Clubs in Florida for your members to join us at the Miatas At The Biltmore Estate Southeastern Region Event during May 6-9, 2004 in Asheville, NC. Check out the full Event information at www.ridgerunnermiata.com/biltmore.htm Please note that we have a limited number of registrations available and that Event registration must be confirmed by February 9, 2004. If your members are not already generally aware of the subject Event, please pass this invitation on to them.

Thanks & Regards,
Dee Storm

Secretary - Ridgerunner Miata Club
Hosted by Ridgerunner Miata Club of Western North Carolina
For more information: visit <http://www.ridgerunnermiata.com/> or
contact Tom Kirkpatrick at twkwnc@hotmail.com 828-627-8034

This is an all-volunteer organization. The events on this calendar don't just happen, good club members MAKE them happen. Have you helped organize an event for your club lately? Contact Don Reese (<mailto:don@sunriders.com>) or any board member and start transforming your fun ideas into reality. Don't sit back and wait for someone else to plan an event - do it yourself!

REMEMBER! Informal Weekly Events: Friday @ 6:30PM: Gathering at Skyline Chili on US19 North of Countryside Mall (across from Macaroni Grill). Subject to change. Please check yahoo groups for location weekly.

2004 AUTOCROSS DATES:

You can mark the track dates as tentative for now, but the SPCC dates are solid.

Sat, 01/10/2004 SPCC	Sun, 10/24/2004 SPCC
Sun, 02/22/2004 SPCC	Sun, 10/24/2004 SPCC
Sat, 03/13/2004 Track	Sat, 11/20/2004 SPCC
Sun, 04/11/2004 SPCC	Sat, 12/04/2004 Track
Sat, 05/08/2004 SPCC	
Sat, 06/12/2004 Track	
Sat, 07/24/2004 SPCC	
Sun, 08/22/2004 SPCC	
Sat, 09/11/2004 Track	



THE LOSS OF A LEADER

The Sun Riders mourn the loss of a leader this Holiday season. More than that, they mourn the loss of a friend and comrad.

Bill Bullington, the President of the club for 2 years, worked hard as a leader to us all. He was dedicated, professional and hard working. He made decisions to better our group and achieved goals that made the club what it is today...a club to be proud of and recognized in the community in which we live and drive each day.

In the words of one friend (Pam Barker), "Bill loved driving his Miata and as I lived near the Bullington's, I often saw him zipping down 9th Street in his unmistakable white '99 with the black stripes. Like many of us, Bill bought a car and then discovered great camaraderie and friendship in the Sun Riders Miata Club."

Bill's passing was unexpected and our hearts and prayers go out to his wife Meredith and their family. He will be missed by us all here on earth but rests now with his son in eternal peace.

(A beautiful floral arrangement was sent by the club for services and a \$250 donation was made to the Vanderbilt Scholarship Fund in memory of Bill. At the service, Bill was honored with a Miata Processional as befits a beloved president and friend.)

In Loving Memory
BILL BULLINGTON
1947-2003



You can shed tears that he is gone,
Or you can smile because he lived,
You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back,
Or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see him
Or you can be full of the love and friendship that you shared,
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember him and only that he is gone
Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on,
You can cry and close your mind be empty and turn your back,
Or you can do what he would want: smile, open your eyes,
love and go on.

Anonymous



Sun Rider's Holiday Party Silent Auction

The Sun Rider's held an auction for charity at their annual Holiday Party. What a success! Thanks to attending club members, we raised over \$500 for charity! Great job!



NEWS RELEASE: BIG HEARTS, LITTLE CARS

The Sun Riders Miata Club of Tampa Bay, Inc., a local car club, believe in the spirit of giving. As part of the community, this club, consisting of about 150 members, responds to the call for hope, love and need during the holiday season. They are a non-profit organization.

This year the clubs Silent Auction will benefit Americas Second Harvest (a local food bank) and the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, raising over \$800 for the 2 charities with this auction and other events held through out the year. "We live, work and play in this community," says Kathy Davis, "We want the community to recognize us and be happy we are part of it. Giving back to the community, be it in volunteering, raising funds or donations is fun and worthwhile. It is something we can all get involved in and it feels good. The people and cars may all range in year, backgrounds and color, but we all have a big heart and enjoy sharing!"

The members of the club enjoy camaraderie, support and driving the cute little roadsters and participate in many diverse driving events. Visit the clubs website at www.sunriders.com or contact Kathy Davis at 727/399-3022 for more info on the sponsors of the auction.

A **HUGE** thank you to all our wonderful sponsors for the auction!

The Radisson - Clw

Mary Kay (Lynda Lucas, Consultant)

The Asolo Theatre

The Candy Kitchen

Orange Blossom Groves

Starlight Cruises

Breeze Products (John Belich)

Postal Fishies (Julie Stees)

Airbrush by Mike

Super Flames

The Davis's

Joe Colavolpe

Lil Deer Art

Thai Wok

Miata.Net

Holiday Vacuum

Hoiday Inn Harborside

Leanna Cody

Dale Nabors

Avon

for more information on these fine sponsors and their locations please contact Kathy Davis at kathy@sunriders.com

Item	Winner
Weekend at The Radisson - Clw	Kevin Morrison
Mary Kay Gift Basket	Kathy Davis
Mary Kay Gift Basket	Nancy Bickner
Asolo Theatre	Pam Barker
The Candy Kitchen	Joe and Ilona Wessling
Orange Blossom Fruit	Jonathan Skinner
Starlight Cruises	LoAn Nguyen
Breeze Products snowman	Susan Beach
Breeze Prod. snowman/bath sets	Kathy Davis
Breeze Products bath set	Joe and Ilona Wessling
Avon Gift bag	Kathy Davis
Breeze Products bath set	Susan Beach
Breeze Products bath set	Kathy Davis
Custom Mailbox	Jonathan Skinner
Miata Shirt (hers)	Kathy Davis
SuperFlames Watch	Joe and Ilona Wessling
Munchy bag	Joe and Ilona Wessling
Munchy bag	Joe and Ilona Wessling
Lil Deer Art	Joe and Judy McCormick
Thai Wok	LoAn Nguyen
License Frame - Miata.net \$15.00	Bill Bullington
License Frame - Miata.net \$20.00	Joe and Judy McCormick
License Frame - Miata.net \$15.00	Kathy Davis
Holiday Vacuum - gift basket	Nancy Bickner
Casino cruise for 4	Nancy Bickner
Casino cruise for 4	Pam Barker
Holiday Inn	Joe and Judy McCormick
L & K Doll	Rose Marie and Frances
Clock	Joe and Judy McCormick
Miata Shirt (his)	Dale Nabors

total.....\$507.00.....for 2 charities!



WHAT I DID ON MY FALL VACATION (by L. T. Barber - Emerald '00)

Ah, a leisurely drive to Talladega, taking back roads where possible through the mountains and enjoying the fall with the prospect of putting your main means of transportation on a beautiful track for what turned out to be 105 flat out miles. Sound interesting? It was for me and Rob, one of my sons.

We left Ellenton at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, 10/25, on I-75 towards Cordele, Georgia and cut through Columbus to Opelika, Alabama. From there we took US 431, SR77, & SR49 to SR21 at the Talladega Gran Prix track and onward to Oxford at I-20 where we stayed for the night. We got there at about 6pm CST because SR 49 through the Cheaha State Park at 2400 feet in elevation with the top down is a GAS!!(read Deal's Gap!!). There are so many more roads in this area that look great; I'm taking a different one next time.

The \$135 "training" event started with a track lecture and driver's meeting by Peachtree Miata Club organizers and SCCA license holders Glenn Stephens and Brad Womick. Novices and those who haven't driven there were required to take rides with an instructor (a club member that is an accomplished driver) before being turned loose.



Four classes, A thru D, were offered with A being novice where I was assigned; Rob was in B because we were sharing a car. The hot dogs were in D.

Wet track conditions prevailed for about an hour with a light rain and the top up, but I found out that my tires were up to my abilities and daring. I say daring because there was a two spin rule; two and you are finished for the day. Track time was 20 minutes per class alternating all day long and that gave 4 or 5 times on the track. I had to take a 3 mile jaunt to a gas station before the last run because as mentioned earlier we put 105 miles on my car on this 1.3 mile track (see picture for layout).



Run clockwise, the track consisted of Turn 1, a slight jog at the end of the pit straight I entered at 80mph and braked for the constant radius Turn 2. Drifting to the outside and then coming across the track set me up for left hand Turns 3 and 4 with a late apex to go very deep into right hand turn 5, getting as much speed as possible for the back "passing" straight that leads into the banked "NASCAR" corner #6. I went in at the rev limiter (80) before I backed off by touching the brakes and sweeping up very wide to hit 80 again, looking forward to heavy braking at right hand turn 7 and then exiting kink 8 leading onto the pit straight to complete one lap.

And all this was in third gear (4.30 rear drive)! Everyone that I am aware of used third except for the turbo cars. My instructor Mark Painter took me in his '91 w/1800cc with a modified FMII unit and ran the course in fourth a lot faster than me. He never exceeded 6 grand as far as I could tell. Then there was the built turbo reportedly exceeding 300hp at the rear wheels wearing 245/45x16 race rubber. His lap times were easily 15 seconds faster than me, although by then we were finally running with most other cars.

The facility there is out in the sticks and a little old but the surface is excellent; it is primarily used for bikes. Anybody want to cough up \$2400 for track rental and go for a short drive?

The next time Peachtree Miata Club holds this event, sign up; it's well worth it!

Link up here for all pictures:

<http://albums.photo.epson.com/j/AlbumIndex?u=4005321&a=30929349&pw=>



Seasons End - Auto Cross 2003

by B Hollands

We put the finishing touches on the Sunriders Autocross club season on Saturday November 15th. It was a beautiful day with clear skies, comfortable temperatures, and a total of 42 drivers who showed up to take part in the action. An interesting mix of cars ranging from a Bugeye Sprite to a Pinto Wagon plus the usual contingent of Miata's was present. There were enough drivers that we had to break into three run groups of 14 cars each. This was nice as every group had some time off to relax and watch during the day. As for the racing, Chad Sutton, driving Loren's Miata, was the fastest when the dust had settled on the first run group. His time held momentarily as LoAn showed up with lunch just as the second run group was about to start. Lunch was catered by LoAn's friend "Bea", owner of Saigon Oriental Market in St. Petersburg. And what a lunch it was! The egg rolls were great and the stir fry was even better than it was for the drivers' school. Yes, there were shrimp in that stir fry, lots of 'em. After lunch, Todd Morrow set a new fastest time in his silver Honda S2000. A couple of spins and a little bit of drifting later and it was time for the third run group. Yours truly managed to get close but not quite close enough, finishing 3rd overall. Loren Williams, with his new custom rear sway bar, got closer still. On his last run, Loren set the fastest raw time of the day but... coned the last turn before the finish thus adding a 2 second penalty. Loren finished 2nd overall, only .066 seconds back. All in all it was one of the closest fastest time battles I can remember as the top four cars were separated by less than half a second at the end of the day. Club member Billy Young won fastest novice honors and was one of only seven drivers to in turn sub-40 second times.

Special thanks need to go out to a number of people, notably Don Reese and Mike Benishek who took on the registration and tech chores with out being asked. LoAn graciously offered to take care of lunch which was appreciated by all. And of course without Loren, this rookie event chairman and his trusty co-chair Dan Rasp would have been up a creek. As for end of the season, all I can say is I've had an absolute blast of a first season running with Sunriders. Can't wait till next year!



pictures courtesy of Alex Williams

FIRST CLASS MAIL

MIATA CLUB

Tampa, FL 33623-6071
P.O. Box 26071



If you received this newsletter and are not a member of our club, please consider this an invitation to join.

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>E MAIL</u>
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AutoCross Dir.	Loren Williams	Loren@InvisibleSun.org
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Merchandise	Ilona Wessling	ilona@sunriders.com (H) 727.376.2484 (W) 727.937.8247
Fellowship	JoAnn Fortay	joann@sunriders.com
Membership	George Bickner	george@bickner.net

Directors:

Mike Benishekpdf@sunriders.com
Owen Johnsowen@sunriders.com
Bob Bartlettbob@InvisibleSun.org

Join us at our club meetings...
We meet the third Wednesday of each month. Tire kicking starts at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00pm. For more information visit the web page at: www.sunriders.com

NEW ROTATING MEETING LOCATIONS!!!!!!

SEE CALENDAR PAGE FOR DETAILS

or contact any board member.

PROPOSED MEETING DAY CHANGE TO WEDNESDAY IS EFFECTIVE WITH JANUARY MEETING!

Stuff the lawyers make us say: all opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. they do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Sun Riders Miata club, Miata Club of America, Mazda Motors, or the Board of Directors of any of these organizations. Technical advice given is based on the writer's experience with their particular cars. Unless otherwise stated, these procedures are not "Factory Approved". Sun Riders assumes no responsibility for the use or misuse of any information presented herein. Use any information at your own risk. Some assembly may be required, batteries not included. Keep away from small children and point away from face when lighting.